

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

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SUBJ: NARCOTICS: GOP AGREEMENT TO CURB COCA GROWING IN AID

AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

1. RECENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOP ON TERMS OF A \$19 MILLION AID LOAN FOR SUBTROPICAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERS AN INTERESTING INDICATOR OF POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE NEW PERUVIAN NARCOTICS LAW ON COCA PRODUCTION. US TERMS OF THE LOAN FOR THE HUALLAGA RIVER REGION NEAR TARAPOTO EAST OF THE ANDES INCLUDED A PROVISION THAT NO COCA WOULD BE PERMITTED IN THE AREA UNDER DEVELOPMENT (ABOUT 85,000 HECTARES). THE GOP'S PLANNING INSTITUTE (INP), THROUGH WHOM THE LOAN WAS BEING NEGOTIATED, AT FIRST BALKED AT THE COCA PROVISION, CONTENDING THAT THIS WAS OUT OF ITS AUTHORITY. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE QUESTION BE HANDLED SEPARATELY WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS.

2. GIVEN THE NEGATIVE REACTION RECEIVED FROM INP, EMBASSY WAS CONCERNED THAT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY MIGHT ALSO BE HESITANT TO SIGN SUCH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE US. AID DIRECTOR AND THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR NONTHELESS PRESENTED A DRAFT LETTER TO INTERIOR VICE MINISTER GENERAL LASSUS, WHO FORTUNATELY ACCEPTED THE COMMITMENT READILY AND OBTAINED THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE'S UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROVAL AS WELL. NARCOTICS COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. MARTINEZ THEN PRESENTED EMBASSY WITH AN EXPANDED AND STRENGTHENED VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL DRAFT WHICH LINKED THE GOP'S COMMITMENT TO THE NARCOTICS LAW TITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY IN HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF THE MULTISECTORAL DRUG CONTROL COMMITTEE. IN THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF JUNE 20, THE COMMITTEE AGREES TO "ADOPT ALL TECHNICAL,

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL MEASURES TO IMPEDE THE CULTIVATION OF COCA "IN THE PROJECT AREA AND "WILL ADOPT SIMILAR MEASURES IN CASE NEW COCA PLANTING SHOULD EMERGE...DRASTICALLY APPLYING THE SANCTIONS OF THE (NARCOTICS) LAW."

3. COMMENT: WHILE THE REGION UNDER DEVELOPMENT IS NOT A PROLIFIC COCA GROWING AREA, SOME IS PROBABLY PLANTED AND WILL HAVE TO BE CURBED UNDER TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE QUESTION REPRESENTED A TEST OF THE GOP'S COMMITMENT TO ITS OWN LAW CALLING FOR THE REDUCTION OF COCA CROPS, AND IT ADHERED TO THAT COMMITMENT IN AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. COPY OF LETTER POUCHED S/NM.

SHLAUDEMAN

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